

# Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia

– towards a coordinated regional approach

**PROJECT OVERVIEW:** Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRiA) is a two-year initiative funded by the European Union’s Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO) launched in mid-2021 to address protection risks and needs of Rohingya refugees in Southeast Asia. The joint project of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), the Mixed Migration Center (MMC) and Geutanyoë Foundation combines evidence-based research, programmatic and advocacy expertise to inform integrated regional protection responses in support of Rohingya refugees as the world’s largest stateless population and one of the largest groups of refugees. PRRiA targets 54 local, 20 international, and 27 regional organisations with a particular focus on Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**ADSP** The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) is a joint initiative between the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) which aims to contribute to the development of solutions for populations affected by displacement in the Asia region. Drawing upon its members’ operational presence in Asia and extensive advocacy networks in Europe and North America, ADSP engages in evidence-based advocacy initiatives to support improved outcomes for displacement-affected communities. ADSP members are operationally present in both Myanmar and Bangladesh as well as in Thailand and Malaysia, providing evidence of drivers of regional Rohingya displacement.

**DRC** The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a humanitarian NGO working in more than 40 countries providing direct assistance to conflict-affected populations, with a primacy on promoting a rights-based approach and commitment to protection. DRC Asia was formally established in 2018 with country operations active across the region since 2009 in Myanmar, 2017 in Bangladesh and 1990 in Afghanistan. Beyond these, DRC hosts two platforms: the Mixed Migration Center in Asia (MMC Asia) and the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP).

**GEUTANYOË MALAYSIA** Geutanyoë Foundation is a humanitarian and policy advocacy organisation founded in Indonesia in 2013 and Malaysia in 2016. Geutanyoë Foundation provides emergency response support, including protection, referrals and education, and works with authorities and key stakeholders across society. Geutanyoë Foundation heads the Secretariat of the All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Refugee Policy, is co-founder and Secretariat of the Malaysian Advisory Group on Myanmar, and co-founder and advisor to the Refugee Coalition of Malaysia. In Indonesia, Geutanyoë Foundation supports fishermen in Aceh and advocates their role in refugee rescue at sea, and works to strengthen refugee protection in both Indonesia and Malaysia.

**Mixed Migration Centre** The Mixed Migration Center (MMC) is a leading source of independent and high-quality data, research and analysis and expertise on mixed migration globally. In Asia, MMC implements its flagship data collection initiative, 4Mi through a network of community-based enumerators in key migration hubs in Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Malaysia. 4Mi provides a solid evidence base on the needs and protection risks facing people on the move. Data and analysis are available through MMC’s interactive data portal – 4Mi Interactive – as well as through published briefing papers and reports. MMC also regularly presents its data to interagency coordination groups, organisations and governments.



**Rohingya**



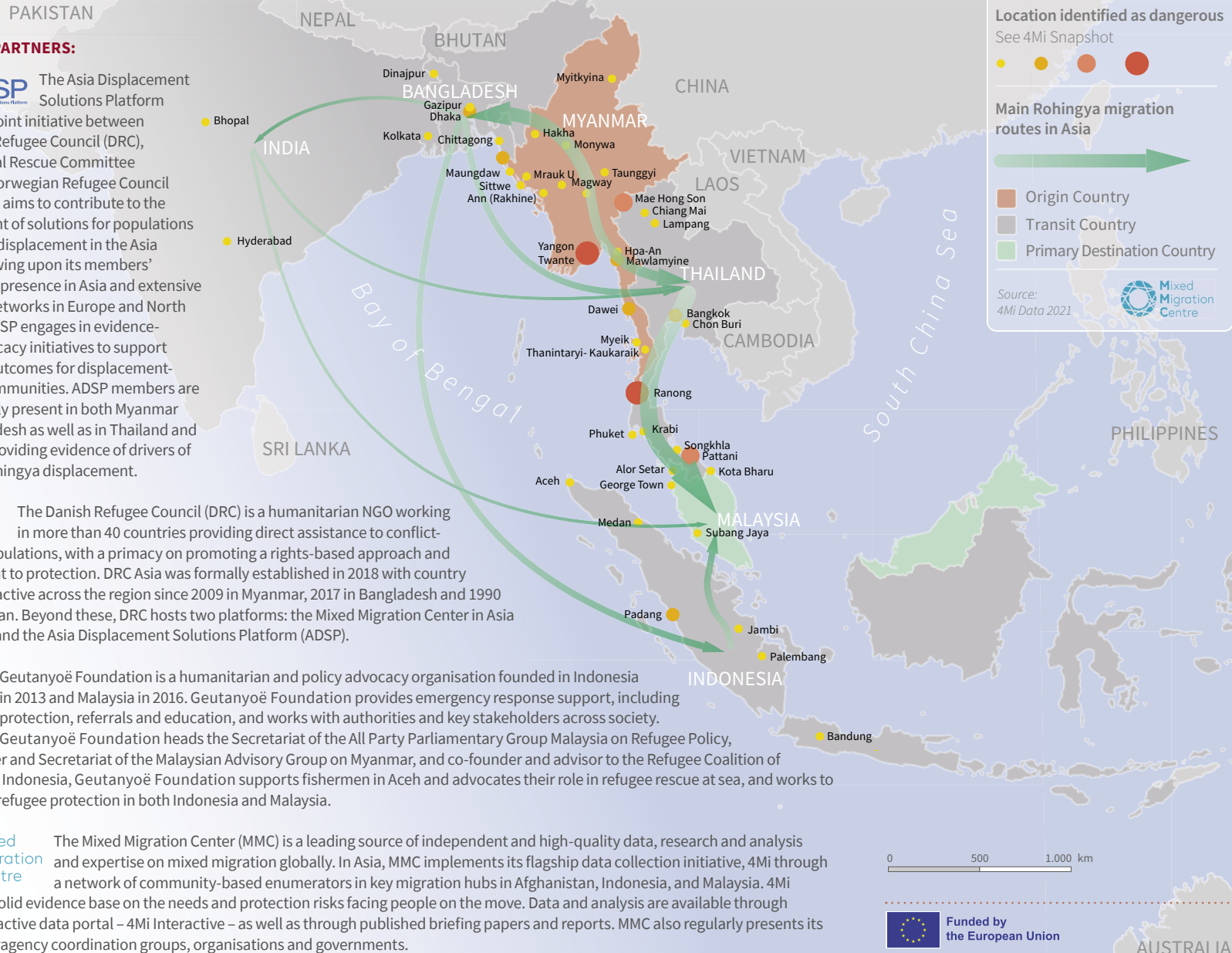
**1.6 M**  
Refugees across the Asia-Pacific region (UNHCR)



**119,920**  
Registered as refugees in India, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia (UNHCR)

**Facts & Resources**

- One of the largest refugee groups in the world ▶ (UNHCR)
- Largest stateless population in the world
- Malaysia hosts the second highest Rohingya caseload after Bangladesh
- Thailand and Indonesia are often transit countries, and a smaller Rohingya population resides in India
- An unspecified number of unregistered Rohingya refugees in the region, mean that actual numbers may be higher
- Regional protection policies for Rohingya range from encampment, including in temporary shelters and detention centres, to relatively unconstrained urban settlement
- **ADSP Research Report** *Rohingya in South East Asia: Opportunities for engagement* ▶
- **MMC Resources** on Rohingya movements across Asia ▶



AUSTRALIA